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## **MIROSLAV BULEŠIĆ – THE LIFE AND MURDER OF AN ISTRIAN PRIEST**

**(with the emphasis on the contemporaries' testimonies)**

### **Summary**

After the liberation of Istria from the Nazi-fascist occupation, communists came to power and started their repression towards the religious people and clergy. At that time the church in Istria suffered the efforts of the Communist authorities to reduce its influence. In that atmosphere threats were a common case while some of the priests suffered fatal consequences. That is what happened to a young Istrian priest Miroslav Bulešić who was killed during the riots in August 1947. For years his death has been a forbidden topic. It was only after the 1990s that his contemporaries spoke out about his life and death, and in 2013 he was beatified.

**Keywords:** Miroslav Bulešić; Catholic Church; clergy; Istria; communist regime; repression; assassination; witnesses